

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of deactivating an allergen from the mite species Der f1 or Der p1, the method comprising dispersing  
5 into an airspace an allergen-deactivating amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the "deactivant"), the deactivant being provided in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion comprising at least 8% of a deactivant (wt. deactivant/wt. emulsion), and being  
10 dispersed into the airspace as a vapour.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the dispersal is aided by heat applied to the emulsion.

4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein  
20 the deactivant is selected from:

a terpene hydrocarbon;  
a citrus oil;  
a mint oil;  
25 bois de rose oil;  
oil of jasmine;  
frankincense;  
oil of bergamot;  
oil of lemon grass;  
30 or a component thereof.

5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon.

6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises  $\beta$ -pinene.

5 7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.

8. The use of an oil-in-water emulsion in deactivating an  
10 allergen at a locus, the emulsion comprising an allergen deactivant present in a concentration of 10-15% wt./wt. of emulsion, a heat source being used to accelerate the vaporization of the deactivant.

15 9. An allergen-deactivating oil-in-water emulsion comprising at least 8% of a volatile deactivant (wt. deactivant/wt. emulsion), wherein the deactivant is selected from:

20 a mint oil;  
bois de rose oil;  
oil of jasmine;  
frankincense;  
oil of bergamot;  
25 oil of lemon grass;  
or a component thereof.